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SUBJECT: PERIPHERAL: Recent Interest of Turkish Government in Albania

1. It appears quite probable that during the visit of the Greek Prime Minister, Sophocles Venizelos, to Turkey the early part of February, Albania was also on the agenda for discussion.

According to press accounts of the Venizelos visit, the Yugoslav Ambassador participated several times in the conferences. If there were tri-partite discussions, the present situation in Albania must have been reviewed, particularly if questions of common defense of the area were being considered.

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About 31 Dec. '51

The Albanian Problem

Albania is the Achilles heel of the Iron Curtain because of the following specific conditions not present in the other satellites:

1. The Albanian people are by nature warlike and liberty loving.
2. Albania is a mountainous country which greatly facilitates a partisan movement.
3. There are no Russian troops in Albania.
4. Albania has a leader endowed with talent and authority in his Majesty, King Zog I.

The combination of these four conditions makes possible the overthrow of the Enver Hoxha regime, a possibility which has not escaped the attention of the State Department. I believe that if the Korean war had not broken out, America would have been obliged to consider seriously the idea of an internal revolution in Albania. It is certain that the Americans have delayed, for they should have acted before the Korean conflict. Nevertheless, America's hesitation had a valid reason--at that time Tito was not only the ally of Moscow but the master of Albania. The State Department, very probably, feared the armed intervention of Tito in support of his satellite, Enver Hoxha, and not without cause. Following the rupture of relations between Tito and Moscow, the situation changed rapidly and a complete break was thus provoked between Tito and Enver Hoxha. The latter profitted by the occasion to get out of the embarrassing situation of being a sub-satellite. Personally I am of the opinion that Enver Hoxha would have voluntarily supported Tito and would have perhaps gone even further in coming openly to the American side if it had not been for his own rancor and hatred of Tito. In Albania, Tito had behaved like a dictator and in reality, had made Albania his colony and the Albanian Communists his lackeys.

Hostile relations between Moscow and Belgrade (expressed nearly every day by the armed encounters which take place on the Yugoslav Albanian border) have logically raised a new thought--Is it not possible to use Tito for the overthrow of Enver Hoxha? Probably this plan had considerable sympathy in American circles. I have had several, non-official conversations on this subject with numerous American representatives. There was even a private meeting, at which the ex-regent of Albania, Mehdi Bey Frasheri, the ex-Minister of Albania in Turkey, Issaf Djadjouli and myself were present. We expressed ourselves categorically against this

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plan. We declared our firm conviction that after grabbing Albania for himself, Tito would install there a Communist regime even worse than that of Enver Hoxha. Tito's services are needed in a single case only, i.e., Tito should permit Albanian emigrés to enter Yugoslavia in order that they can work there freely to organize a revolt against Enver Hoxha for the purpose of creating a free, National Albania.

Today, as one can see, the Americans have abandoned this plan, because Tito is not yet a sincere ally of the West. For the moment, Tito has formed a national Albanian Committee with communist leanings, composed of Albanian escapees and Kosovars. This committee is being held in reserve by Tito for eventual use against Hoxha, who has shot or hung all Tito's partisans, including their chief, Koci Xoxe.

As for Albania's other neighbor, Greece, it has not been possible as yet, unfortunately, to find a common language. As usual, Greece has aggressive plans and its policy towards Albania is still inspired by negative motives. Greece wishes to seize from Albania Northern Epirus, the most fertile part of Albania. It must be remembered that the present frontier of Albania was originally delineated by the Allies and confirmed by them on two subsequent occasions. In any case, this frontier does not benefit Albania, for the fertile Choumorja was taken away and given to Greece. It is not the place here to speak of the means by which Greece has endeavored to prove its historical, national and religious right to Northern Epirus. Facts speak for themselves. Not only does Greece not aid Albania but it does everything possible to prevent the liberation of Albania. Greece does not wish to see a strong chief of state in Albania. Being the spoiled child of the English, she is guilty of spreading all the false and tendentious propaganda concerning Albania and King Zog I. Lately, there has been constant talk of an eventual change of Greek policy towards Albania. It is even being said that under American influence, Greece is ready to accept in its territory Albanian patriots, who will organize there for the liberation of Albania. There is no doubt that a revolution in Albania would be carried out with insignificant losses if:

1. Greece renounces its false territorial claims. This renunciation must be carried by the press and over the radio. All the people of Albania prefer the Enver Hoxha regime to Greece enslavement.
2. United States aids by giving money and arms.
3. King Zog is recognized as the only leader capable of accomplishing the liberation.

It is the proper moment to say some words regarding his Majesty King Zog I. I do not wish to be a prophet, but I affirm

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that in a free Albania even the people who would vote for a republic, would vote for King Zog as president of an Albanian republic. The Albanian people cannot forget the days of King Zog, particularly in the terrible situation in which they find themselves today. The enormous progress which Albania then made is due to him. It is he who created the independent state of Albania, the national school, the press, religious tolerance, the roads and the calm and absolute internal order in the country. During his enforced absence, all his enemies have, each in turn, governed Albania during the Italian and German occupations. These politicians completely failed and all are hated and have been attacked by the Albanian people. Those who were saved by a miracle and who are today emigres are almost all staunch supporters of the King, all recognizing his administrative ability. This opinion is shared also by all independent politicians -- prime ministers and ministers in the time of the occupation, such as Mustafa KROUYA, Marco DJONI, Ernest KOLIDJI, etc.

Personally, I suppose that American circles have always had an innate aversion to monarchy, and influenced by false information, have behaved very coldly towards Zog. However, time and close study of Albanian conditions have changed many opinions. In any case, representatives of the monarchist party participate in the Albanian committee supported by Washington. The president of the National Committee for a Free Albania is Hasan DOSTI of the Ballist party. To tell the truth, such a party has never existed in Albania. It was formed in exile. The Ballist party is hostile to the King and vigorously propagandizes against him. Hasan Dosti is a cultivated person, by profession a judge. He is honest, but in Albania he had no more importance than a perfect of a provincial city. Zef PALI, a Catholic, is the second representative of the Ballist party on the committee. Said Bey KREZYSIU is the Agrarian party representative on the committee. This party has also been recently formed in exile. The Albanian monarchist party is represented by Major Abas KUPI, one of the most important figures of the partisan movement. The second representative of the monarchist party is Noutchi KOTA, son of the ex-prime minister of Albania. Such membership cannot give the committee full prestige and authority. More than once I have expressed the opinion that it would have been much better to place at the head of the committee a person of stature and well known, such as Mehdi FRASHERI.

Just as in all non-homogeneous committees of the world, here also are intrigues and fights. Nevertheless one should recognize that these internal quarrels and intrigues are less serious and scandalous than in other national committees. It is natural that each political party on the committee should prepare its cadres and plans for domination. That is why it is not surprising that they all recruit followers, and form branches wherever there are Albanian emigrants -- in Germany, Italy, France and Turkey.

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In Turkey, it is the monarchist party which is particularly strong. At the moment, the Ballists have scarcely ten people, the Agrarians forty, the monarchists two hundred. The Ballist heads in Turkey are Kazim PROUDANI, the former secretary of the Ministry of Health and Selim MBORYA, Korea merchant. Hasan KALOCHI, son of Mourat Bey, is at the head of the Agrarians. The monarchists are lead by Captain Anvi DERALIA, old officer of the royal guard who is distinguished from the other representatives by his tact and modesty.

The activity of all these groups does not present any problem to the Turkish government, because all are absorbed by national thinking and almost all have a great friendship and respect for the Turkish people. In the Albanian emigrant circles, there is lately a strong sentiment for the creation of a Turco-Albanian cultural committee for the rapprochement and understanding between the two countries. I am very sceptical that this is a good idea, because the best elements of Albanian society are outside Turkey. In normal conditions, such a committee would have played a great role because I have not seen any other country where the Turks are loved as much as in Albania.

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